

b.) Remarks

Claims 44, 45, 47-52, 64-70, 74-79, 82, 83, 85-90 and 92-98 are cancelled in order to reduce the issues and expedite prosecution. Additionally, claims 42, 63 and 80 have been amended to better recite the patentable features of the present invention, and claims 46, 53, 84 and 91 are amended to maintain their dependency.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner entered the Amendment after Final but maintained the rejections. The Examiner did not, however, address Applicants' showings of significantly improved results obtained by the present invention over the closest prior art when tablets are compressed at 0.7 to 1.3 ton/cm<sup>3</sup>. Such was discussed at length at pages 18-19 of the Amendment after Final.

To the contrary, the Advisory Action notes "the data of record illustrates conclusively that, when stearic acid is included in the molding material as in the prior art, tablets with inferior hardness are obtained when the molding material is compressed at Applicants tableting pressure of 0.7 to 1.3 ton/cm<sup>3</sup>."

Such does not respond, however, to Applicants' conclusive showing that tablets produced according to the present invention are 25% harder than those of the prior art. At least for this reason, any *prima facie* obviousness is rebutted and the nonobviousness of the pending claims is established.

Entry hereof is earnestly solicited.

Claims 42, 43, 46, 53, 63, 72, 73, 80, 81, 84, 91 and 99-102 remain presented for continued prosecution

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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